

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
MINUTES
MADISON, WISCONSIN**

OCTOBER 2, 2002

PRESENT: Tracy Benzel, Jon Gumtow, Wayne Lindgren, Robert Wendt

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Forseth, William Black, and Grace Schwingel

CALL TO ORDER

Tracy Benzel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum of 4 members was present.

AGENDA

MOTION: Wayne Lindgren moved, seconded by Robert Wendt, to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (6/20/2002)

MOTION: Wayne Lindgren moved, seconded by Robert Wendt, to approve the minutes of 6/20/2002 as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mary Forseth, Bureau Director

- **Section Roster**

The Section roster was approved as published.

MOTION: Jon Gumtow moved, seconded by Wayne Lindgren, to nominate Robert Wendt as Vice Chair of the Section. Motion carried unanimously.

- **2002 Section Meeting Dates**

This meeting replaces the meeting that had been scheduled for October 22, 2002.

- **2003 Section/Board Meeting Dates**

The Section approved the Section and Joint Board meeting dates as published; the only change was to change the June 24, 2003, and December 16, 2003 meetings to teleconference meetings.

Elect Member to Represent Section on GHSS Rules Committee

MOTION: Robert Wendt moved, seconded by Jon Guntow, that the Section made an inadvertent decision at the last meeting and this motion is to correct the 10/02/02 minutes to reflect the current reality that Robert Wendt should be the designee to the GHSS Rules Committee and not Tracy Benzel. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Secretary/Deputy Secretary Comments**

Deputy Secretary Greg Horstman introduced himself to the Section members. Deputy Secretary Horstman indicated the Secretary's Office interest in maintaining direct communication with the boards and sections to keep members updated on what is happening in the Department, to be available to board members to answer questions they may have, and to ensure that boards are receiving the services they need from the Department. The State's and the Department's budget issues were discussed.

- **To-Do List**

Mary reviewed the to-do list.

- **Regulatory Digest, Katherine Hildebrand**

The Section discussed issues to be included as articles in the December Regulatory Digest. It was suggested that the Section could be involved in some public relations announcements.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Update DATCP Rule, Mary Forseth

Mary Forseth gave an update on the DATCP rule.

Continuing Education

- **Report on Commerce, DNR, DATCP CE Programs, Tracy Benzel**

Tracy Benzel reported on how CE programs are dealt with in other state agencies and criteria used to qualify courses, schools and instructors for meeting CE requirements. The Section

discussed the necessity for flexibility in criteria for CE requirements since there are limited options for classes that are available to licensees.

- **Report on Other Jurisdiction's CE Programs, Jerry Tyler/Tracy Benzel**

Tracy Benzel led a discussion as to what the State of Wisconsin, the profession's Associations, and other professions regulated by the Department require for CE programs. It was noted that the Section is not required to be consistent with other Sections or Boards with regard to CE requirements.

- **Review of Other Profession's Course Approval Procedures, Lydia Bridge**

Lydia Bridge reviewed procedures the Department uses to approve courses for CE credit and classroom or distance education (videos, books, computer courses) as options for CE credit. The Section had a lengthy discussion on whether there is a pressing need for requiring CE credits at this time. The members are not aware of any evidence of harm to the public that continuing education would address. The Section questioned whether there is justification for requiring continuing education, considering the amount of work and cost involved in pre-approving courses and having an effective CE program. It was discussed whether simply working in the field could be considered a form of continuing education.

It was noted that people who have been working in the area of soil science may not yet fully understand the need for licensure of the profession and whether the Section should consider adding requirements in the form of CE credits. The Section wants currently licensed soil scientists to continue to practice and does not want to put obstacles in the way of people who are currently working in the field, who may want to get a license. Therefore, the Section agrees that it is a little early in the life of this profession to be adding CE requirements, especially considering the relatively small number of licensees in the profession at this time. The Section prefers to take a look at adding continuing education requirements for licensure at a later date.

The Section considered whether, as an initial step towards continuing education, it should first gather data from the people currently practicing in the field, perhaps in the form of a survey or at renewal time, to document whether or not licensees are actually working in the field of soil science and if they are getting continuing education on their own. The Section's sole interest in gathering the data would be to justify the need for continuing education at some time in the future, not in following-up on the individual licensee.

Jon Guntow will follow up with ARCPAC on getting its list of names of certified professional soil scientists and get some information from them regarding ARCPAC's approach to continuing education credits and will report back to the Section at its next meeting. Mary Forseth will get the Department's list of names of soil scientist licensees.

SECTION MEMBER ACTIVITY

It was noted that former Section member, Jerry Tyler, had gone to the last National Soil Science Examination Development Workgroup that is working on exam questions for the nationwide exam. Tracy Benzel indicated the Section will need to appoint another member to replace Jerry Tyler to go to

those workshops. The Section would like to get a report from Jerry Tyler on his attendance at that meeting.

PRACTICE ISSUES

Review Letter to Schools Re: Licensure Requirements

Mary Forseth reviewed the draft of a letter dated October 1, 2002, prepared regarding licensure required for practice of geology, hydrology, and soil science. Mary Forseth will have Department staff do some research to gather a list of the public and private schools, and the Departments (horticulture, agronomy and/or soil science) within the schools that deal with soil science courses that this letter would be sent to.

Promotional Pamphlets

There was a discussion of the need for a separate pamphlet for each Section that would be linked with the Department's web site, and the best way to distribute a brochure that would provide the educational and experience requirements for becoming a professional soil scientist and the criteria for eligibility to take the soil scientist exam. Mary Forseth will get a copy of the brochure the Section had worked on in the last two years to present at the Joint Board meeting tomorrow (October 3, 2002) and make revisions based on input from the board members.

Inter-Agency Liaison Committee

- **Discuss Committee's Mission**

Tracy Benzel gave a summary of what the Inter-Agency Committee did and its purpose. The purpose of the Inter-Agency Liaison Committee was to unify the standards in administrative codes between state agencies when they come up for revision, particularly between the DNR, DATCP, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Regulation & Licensing that deal with the issues of geology, hydrology, and soil science. It was felt there will always be a need to have the Committee but there is no immediate need for the Committee to meet.

Membership

The Committee had been looking for a new person to represent DATCAP.

- **Agenda Items**

None

EXAMINATION ISSUES

Soil Science Exam Protocols, Tracy Benzel/Jerry Tyler

This issue was discussed briefly. If ARCPAC can meet the states' requirements, an individual taking the ARCPAC exam would automatically be qualified for licensure in Wisconsin without having to take the Wisconsin exam.

Acceptance of ARCPAC Proctors Exams, Jerry Tyler/Tracy Benzel

This issue was discussed briefly.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION

Tracy Benzel referred to a letter he received from the Raintree Resort and Convention Center that indicated all meeting and convention space is free to state agencies. This could be a possible meeting place for future Department Board member workshops.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

There were no issues to discuss in closed session.

SUCH OTHER ITEMS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Wayne Lindgren moved, seconded by Jon Guntow, to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: March 14, 2003

DATE: October 22, 2002

TO: Mary Forseth

FROM: Grace Schwingel

SUBJECT: SOIL SCIENTISTS SECTION MEETING OCTOBER 2, 2002, TO DO LIST

1. **Jon Guntow** will get a list of names of ARCPAC certified professional soil scientists. Jon will also get information from ARCPAC regarding its approach to continuing education credits and report back to the Section at its next meeting.
2. **Mary Forseth** will get the Department's list of the names of soil scientist licensees.
3. **The Section** will need to appoint another member to replace Jerry Tyler to go to the National Soil Science Examination Development Workgroup that is working on exam questions for the nationwide exam. The Section would like to get a report from Jerry Tyler on his attendance at that meeting.
4. **Mary Forseth** will get a copy of the brochure the Section had worked on in the last two years to present at the Joint Board meeting tomorrow (October 3, 2002) and make revisions to the brochure based on input from the board members.
5. **Mary Forseth** will have Department staff do some research to gather a list of the public and private schools, and the Departments (horticulture, agronomy and/or soil science) within the schools that deal with soil science courses, that the letter dealing with the licensure requirements for the practice of geology, hydrology and soil science would be sent to.